. Construction of Elevated Highway

2692. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a pressing demand for construction of elevated highway from Thambaram to Chennai Port and from Madura Valla to Chennai Port;

(b) if so, the reaction of his Ministry in this regard; and

{c) if the said demand is accepted the total cost involved and the timeframe for the completion of the project.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Request to take up the project of Elevated Expressway connectivity to Chennai Port have been received from Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu and Chennai Port Trust.

(b) & (c) Afour lane bypass from Tambram to Maduravoyal around Chennai city is already under construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 405 crore. Preparation of feasibility report for elevated four lane road from Maduravoyal to Chennai Port has been taken up recently. Cost and time of completion of this elevated four land road is subject to the outcome of the feasibility report.

India's Future Manned Space Mission

2693. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) in what way the recent successful launch of 50 kg capsule to space would help India's future manned space mission;

(b) whether ISRO faced any hiccups during the launch and recovery of the above capsule; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The successful launch and recovery of Space Capsule weighing 550 kg, has provided valuable technological inputs

in the areas of navigation, guidance and control, hypersonic aerothermodynamics, thermal protection systems, deceleration and floatation systems which are of relevance for future launch vehicle missions including manned missions. It also provided opportunity of conducting experiments in microgravity conditions.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

Launching of Geostationary Weather Satellites

2694. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO is planning to launch Geostationary weather satellites;

(b) if so, the number of weather satellites it would launch with name and time-frame when they would be launched;

(c) whether these satellites would improve weather forecast and keep track of cyclones and monsoon;

(d) whether the satellite carry sensors with them;

(e) if so, whether all information would be tracked by these sensors and passed on to the earth station; and

(f) the amount of outlay which is earmarked for the said project and whether the satellites would be built indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As on date ISRO has two satellites carrying meteorological payload namely INSAT-3A and KALPANA operating in orbit. ISRO is building a meteorological satellite INSAT-3D with advanced meteorological payload that is expected to be launched in 2008.

(c) Yes, Sir. The data from this satellite will aid in improved modelling of weather phenomena.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The outlay for the INSAT-3D satellite is about Rs. 200 crores. The satellite is being built indigenously.